



Vol. 6, Issue 2

InfoTech News

Information Technology Resource Management Council, Boise, ID

April 2002

ITRMC Vision: Assure standardized, effective, and efficient statewide access to information and services.

Idaho to Receive \$15,000 WGA/NASA Grant

As a result of an application submitted by Liza Fox, former State Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Coordinator, Idaho has been awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Western Governor's Association (WGA) and the National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA). This grant is to be used for the research and development of a remote sensing/GIS application for fire planning, response, or restoration.

Nathan Bentley, current State GIS Coordinator, has identified the partners to work toward the completion of the project work plan, which was developed by Dave Gruenhagen, Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), and Bentley. Partners include: IDL, State and Eastern Idaho Regional offices; Idaho State University (ISU), GIS/Remote Sensing Laboratory; and Bingham County Weed Control, Black Snake Cooperative Weeds Management Area, and Shelley High School Solutions Program (collectively). The identified partners decided to focus

project efforts on an area of Idaho state land known as the Twin Buttes Block (Northern Bingham County and Western Bonneville County). This area has experienced range fires for the last five years, including the 1998 Tilden Fire that burned over 20,000 acres of state endowment lands. Consequently, IDL is now faced with updating its vegetation inventories for use with its land management mission, particularly: forage production, range health, wildlife habitat issues (sage grouse), and the invasion of cheatgrass to this area.

Goals of the Twin Buttes Block project are to identify: burn scars of the last five years to determine the potential for cheatgrass invasion; areas currently dominated by cheatgrass; areas of native grassland, shrublands, and shrub-grassland mixture; sagebrush density, and species in sagebrush stands; fuel load levels and potential fire spread models; and to identify and map noxious weed invasion of the area.

State Home Page Revised

Access Idaho started 2002 by launching a new home page for the State of Idaho. The page keeps a familiar look and feel, highlights online services, and has more flexibility to display icons under top picks. To emphasize the point about how important a well-structured home page is, here is a quick snapshot at how the portal has grown over the past two years. 2001: 76,236,401 annual hits were recorded vs. 2000: 58,430,274 hits. The increase of nearly eighteen million hits in 2001 represents a 130% boost in traffic accessing Idaho's home page.

The portal will continue to monitor web trends for the home page to best present the services users are looking for. To give you a feel of what people are looking for on the state's web site, listed to the right are the top ten most requested pages for 2002.



Top ten most requested pages for 2002:

1. Access Idaho—Official Website of the State of Idaho
2. Topical State Agency Index
3. SOS Search For Business Entities
4. Search Online Services
5. Online Services
6. Employment
7. How Do I?
8. Government
9. List of Idaho Cities
10. Maps

— Article courtesy Jeff Walker, Marketing Director, Access Idaho

Council Update: February 20, 2002 Meeting*

- Bill Farnsworth, IT Policy Analyst and ITRMC Staff, provided an update on **Digital Government Day 2002**, held on January 28th in the Capitol Rotunda. Positive feedback was received from a number of the twenty-four participating state agencies and departments. Rich Elwood, Statewide IT Coordinator, was interviewed by Channel 2 and Channel 6 news relative to the event and Access Idaho.
- Council member Karl Kurtz, Department of Health and Welfare, advised of discussions held at the first meeting of the ITRMC **Enterprise IT Security and Business Recovery Work Group**.
- Charlie Wright, Department of Health and Welfare, provided an update of recent ITRMC **Secure Access to Applications and Data (SATAD) Work Group** activities.
- ITRMC IT Enterprise **Standard 3130****, **Network Services—Video Conferencing**, was approved.
- ITRMC IT enterprise **guidelines** G110 (Agency IT Plan) and G210 (Major Project Summary)** were approved.
- Council member Steve Wilson, Idaho State Tax Commission, described actions taken at the first meeting of the ITRMC **Shared E-Mail Service Work Group**.
- Council member Senator Hal Bunderson advised the Senate State Affairs Committee had approved **SB1461** relative to ITRMC-enabling legislation.
- Representative Sharon Block outlined **statewide telecommunications concerns** expressed by the **Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce**.
- Liza Fox, Idaho Transportation Department and **Idaho Geospatial Committee** (IGC) Chair, provided an update of IGC issues.
- Bob Smith and Jeff Servatius presented a demonstration of the Department of Lands' **Integrated State Land Records application**.
- Nathan Bentley, State GIS Coordinator and ITRMC Staff, discussed the centralization of geographic information systems (GIS) data acquisition and development via the establishment of a **state GIS center**.
- **Brief updates** were given on the following: IDANET, Purchasing contracts, Access Idaho (including a look at the revised State of Idaho homepage), and 2002 Digital Government Boot Camp preparations.
- Rich Elwood briefly discussed work being done toward the development of a **cost benefit analysis guideline**.

*Full copies of approved ITRMC minutes available on-line:

<http://www2.state.id.us/itrmc/council/mtgmins.htm>

**For more information go to: <http://www2.state.id.us/itrmc/>

ITRMC Members

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Committee / Work Group Activities

Access Idaho Steering Committee (*Chairman: Bill Farnsworth, ITRMC Staff*)

Recent approvals by the Access Idaho Steering Committee include Service Level Agreements (SLAs) for the departments of Finance and Correction, South Central District Health, and the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission. The Committee also approved SLA addendums for Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) and the Idaho Real Estate Commission, along with an agreement between ITD and Access Idaho for a dedicated developer.

**For more information, go to: <http://www.state.id.us/ai/about.html>*

Idaho Geospatial Committee (IGC) (*Chairman: Liza Fox, Idaho Transportation Department*)

At its February 7th meeting, the IGC was presented with a recommendation to recognize INSIDE Idaho (<http://inside.uidaho.edu/>) as the state GIS clearinghouse. The Committee generally supported a request by Nathan Bentley to seek ITRMC approval to research the need, desire, location, etc. of a state GIS center. Members endorsed the Idaho State Tax Commission's Five-Year GIS/IT Plan in concept, and have requested a detailed plan be developed for review.

**For more info, go to: <http://www2.state.id.us/itrmc/council/igc/about.htm>*

Enterprise IT Security and Business Recovery Work Group (*Chairman: Karl Kurtz, Dept. of Health and Welfare*)

At their first meeting (February 5th), members of the Enterprise IT Security and Business Recovery Work Group shared ideas on security and business recovery requirements, along with current and future infrastructure improvements needed.

**For more info, go to: <http://www2.state.id.us/itrmc/council/committees.htm#itsecurity>*

Enterprise Shared E-Mail Service Work Group (*Chairman: Steve Wilson, Idaho State Tax Commission*)

At its first meeting (February 7th), the Enterprise Shared E-Mail Service Work Group reviewed a draft work plan for the evaluation process, and made a list of critical areas of concern. The ITRMC Staff was charged with the preparation of a draft survey to be distributed to state agencies, departments, boards, and commissions, and to categorize a list of issues developed by the Work Group.

**For more info, go to: <http://www2.state.id.us/itrmc/council/committees.htm#email>*

Public Safety, Emergency Communication Committee (*Chairman: Major General John Kane, Military Division*)

Trunked Radio Subcommittee: A Frequency Study that will be conducted and financed by the Public Safety Wireless Network (PSWN) and consulting firm Booz Allen Hamilton is planned, and should be complete by mid-2002. This study will be used, in part, to determine how the state may migrate to narrow-band radio systems in order to obtain additional capacity for public safety needs.

**For more info, go to: <http://www2.state.id.us/itrmc/council/committees.htm#publicsafety>*

Secure Access to Applications and Data (SATAD) Work Group (*Chairman: J.D. Williams, State Controller*)

The SATAD Work Group is investigating digital certificates and virtual private networks (VPN's) that would be sufficient for the security needed to meet HIPAA requirements, and will issue a request for information (RFI) to assist in addressing some principle concerns. Work Group Chair J.D. Williams is working to ensure that data processed – and information gained by – using digital certificates is exempt from the Idaho Public Records Law.

**For more info, go to: <http://www2.state.id.us/itrmc/council/committees.htm#satad>*

Year 2002 ITRMC Meeting Dates

** **Next Meeting** **

Wednesday, April 24th from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m.

East Conference Room, J.R.Williams Bldg., 700 West State, Boise, Idaho

**All subsequent meetings will be held on Wednesdays,
8:30 to 11:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted)**

June 19, August 21, October 8*, December 11

The **Digital Govt. 'Boot Camp' will serve as ITRMC's regular meeting:
Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Boise Centre on the Grove)*

Note: All meetings are subject to change.

Please check our Web site for an update—<http://www2.state.id.us/itrmc>



SENATE BILL 1461,

[related to ITRMC-enabling legislation (67-5745C)]
strengthening the oversight role of the Council, was approved by the House and Senate in March 2002. This bill was co-sponsored by Council members Senator Hal Bunderson and Representative Lee Gagner.

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Featured Agency Application

Integrated State Lands Records

The Department of Lands' Integrated State Lands Records project was initiated during the 2000 legislative session with House Bill 487 (authored by ITRMC member Senator Hal Bunderson) for the purpose of consolidating databases spread throughout state and local agencies into one all-inclusive database. The project has since grown to be a Web site comprised of a comprehensive, spatially-enabled database of all state-owned property and buildings—as well as state-leased facilities—including accompanying photographs, hyperlinks to scanned deeds of state-owned property, land sale certificates, and query options.

The images displayed on the site are made possible by fairly current, 10-meter SPOT Image Corporation satellite imagery, and 1-meter Digital Orthophoto Quarter-Quadrangles (DOQQs) from USGS. (SPOT Image Corporation is a leading supplier of imagery from optical and Earth observation satellites. DOQQs are 1:12,000 scale representations of a quarter of the area of a conventional USGS 7.5-minute topographical map produced using aerial photographs.)

The potential for expanded use of the site is apparent, including numerous services to Idaho counties, and integration with other programs/applications, such as: IDANET (Idaho's broadband digital telecommunications initiative), disaster response (i.e. chemical spills, wildfire, floods), business and commerce, education, national map (USGS), and Idaho infrastructure (i.e. communication facilities).

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InfoTech News is a newsletter for the **Information Technology Resource Management Council**. Anyone wishing to contribute information and ideas for future articles; has questions regarding the Council and its Mission, the **ITRMC Staff** and its activities; or would like to be on the mailing list, please contact:

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